What is claimed is:

1. A computer-aided configuration tool, into which a number of technical elements and their technical relationships can be entered, such that the elements and their relationships specify a technical system, comprising:

technical characteristics which can be set for each element in the configuration tool, wherein only the setting of technical characteristics for a first element is permissible, on the basis of which it remains compatible with a second element with which it is intended to be related.

2. A computer-aided configuration tool, into which a number of technical elements and their technical relationships can be entered, such that the elements and their relationships specify a technical system, comprising:

technical characteristics which can be set for each element in the configuration tool, wherein the characteristics of a first and of a second element and a relationship which exists between these elements, are used to check whether the first element is compatible with the second element.

3. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elements, their technical characteristics and their relationships are read from at least one of a file and a file system.

4. The configuration tool of claim 3, wherein the file is an ASCII file.

5. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elements, their technical characteristics and their relationships are at least one of interactively enterable and amendable.

6. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elements, their technical characteristics and their relationships are at least one of interactively enterable and amendable.

7. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 3, wherein the elements, their technical characteristics and their relationships are at least one of interactively enterable and amendable.

8. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 5, wherein the technical characteristics for the elements are set by selecting one element from a catalog of elements with defined element-specific characteristics.

9. The configuration tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein the check for compatibility includes a check of the nature of the first and of the second element, a check of the existing relationship and a check as to whether the first element satisfies a technical condition which is dependent on at least one of the nature of the second element and of the existing relationship.

10.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 9, wherein the condition can be selected from a set of conditions which are stored in at least one of a file and a file system.

11.   The configuration too of claim 10, wherein the file is an ASCII file.

12.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the check for compatibility includes a check of the nature of the first and of the second element, a check of the existing relationship and a check as to whether the first element satisfies a technical condition which is dependent on at least one of the nature of the second element and of the existing relationship.

13.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 12, wherein the condition can be selected from a set of conditions which are stored in at least one of a file and a file system.

14.   The configuration tool of claim 13, wherein the file is an ASCII file.

15.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 5, wherein the entered or amended elements, their technical characteristics and their relationships can be stored as at least one of a file and a file system.

16.   The configuration tool of claim 15, wherein the file is an ASCII file.

17.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elements are electrical elements, and the characteristics are at least one of electrical, electronic and electromechanical characteristics.

18.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elements are electrical elements, and the characteristics are at least one of electrical, electronic and electromechanical characteristics.

19.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 17, wherein the elements are low voltage switching devices and their upstream and downstream elements.

20.   The configuration tool as claimed in claim 18, wherein the elements are low voltage switching devices and their upstream and downstream elements.

21.   The configuration tool of claim 1, embodied in a memory.

22.   The configuration tool of claim 1, embodied in a computer readable medium.

23.   The configuration tool of claim 2, embodied in a memory.

24.   The configuration tool of claim 2, embodied in a computer readable medium.

25.   An apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a computer aided configuration tool including technical characteristics which can be set for each element in the configuration tool, wherein only the setting of technical characteristics for a first element is permissible, on the basis of which it remains compatible with a second element with which it is intended to be related; and

input means for permitting at least one of entry and change of at least one of an element, a technical characteristic, and element relationships.

26.   An apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a computer aided configuration tool including technical characteristics which can be set for each element in the configuration tool, wherein the characteristics of a first and of a second element and a relationship which exists between these elements, are used to check whether the first element is compatible with the second element; and

input means for permitting at least one of entry and change of at least one of an element, a technical characteristic, and element relationships.